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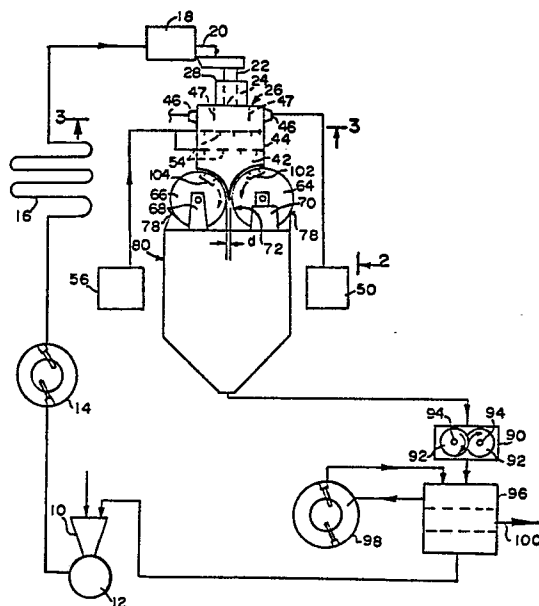
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54 **Agglomeration method and apparatus.**

57 A particulate comestible material is agglomerated by forming a flowable phase on the particle surfaces, consolidating the particles by passing them through a nip and resolidifying the flowable phase. The color, texture and density may be adjusted by controlling the degree of consolidation and the conditions of flowable phase formation.





DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl. 4)
X	DE-A-2 044 489 (STORK AMSTERDAM) * Claims 1,2,4; figure * ---	1-3,5,6 ,7,9,10 ,11	A 23 P 1/02 A 23 F 5/38 A 23 F 5/32
X	DE-A-2 035 071 (PROCTER & GAMBLE) * Claims 1,3,4; page 6, paragraph 3 - page 7, paragraph 1; example 2 * ---	1,2,5,6 ,8,9,10	
X	DE-B-1 142 843 (METALLGESELLSCHAFT AG) * Claim 1; column 2, line 26 - column 3, line 8; example 2 * ---	1,2,5,6 ,7,9,10	
X	DE-A-1 667 127 (KLÖCKNER-HUMBOLDT-DEUTZ) * Claims 1-5; page 4; figure 1 * -----	1,2,5,6 ,9,10	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.4)
			A 23 P A 23 F A 23 C B 01 J
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 13-09-1988	Examiner DESMEDT G.R.A.
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	